

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION



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MAY/JUNE 1987

Bear Creek Builds on Blacktail

In April the Montana Library Commission went into retreat near Helena to examine many issues during its biennial planning process. The result is a newly written mission statement called Bear Creek.

Blacktail written in 1965 focused on library development issues while the 1987 Bear Creek mission statement builds on blacktail recognizing difficult economic times and encourages providing basic library services. It stresses the need for library service continuing to be free, supports federations, fosters examination of Montana library laws, restates commitment to institutional services and supports state aid for libraries.

Bear Creek restates commitment to library development and encourages initiatives in literacy, collection development and management, support for a white House Conference, multi-type cooperation, advocacy for libraries and interlibrary loan service. Since the original draft, a statement has been added emphasizing the importance and need for strong school library media accreditation standards. ■



Montana Association for the Blind Purchases Duplicator for Prison Recording Program

The Montana Association for the Blind has purchased a one-to-one high speed audio cassette duplicator for the Recording Program at the Montana State Prison. The program at the prison works with the Montana State Library to record Montana books not recorded by Library of Congress.

The Montana Association for the Blind is a 40-year-old non-profit membership organization, composed of blind and visually handicapped people and their friends.

Leila Proctor, secretary/treasurer of the Association states: "Since this is an organization of the blind, anything that

happens at the State Library for the blind and physically handicapped effects most of us. In purchasing this new equipment, we are doing something that will directly benefit each one of us."

Currently all Montana books are duplicated at the Montana State Library. The addition of the one-to-one high speed audio cassette duplicator will allow the inmates to duplicate more of the books, increasing the amount of Montana books made available by the State Library.

The duplicator purchased by the Association has the capacity of duplicating both sides of a cassette at a high speed and can be added to as the recording program expands.

In the last two years the inmates employed at the Prison Recording program have recorded 20 books and 10 issues of Montana Magazine of

Western History. In addition to the recording and monitoring, the inmates also help check for quality once cassettes are duplicated, process the books (label containers and cassettes, type cards), as well as check damaged cassettes and records received by Montana State Library. ■

Continuing Education Needs Assessment

The continuing education committee, with the assistance of the project facilitator, Darlene Wellgand, will sponsor four area meetings during July to provide a forum for discussion of continuing education issues. Individual delegates from each of the six ends of the Montana library community will be invited to participate in these initial meetings to present the concerns and opinions of those they represent. In this way, attendance at the meetings will be widespread and all types of libraries, librarians and library workers will be represented.

At the conclusion of these meetings the committee will work with Mr. Wellgand to design the needs assessment questionnaire which will be completed by a sample from each of the library community segments. The responses to the questionnaire will be used in the preparation of the long range plan for continuing library education for Montana. ■

Sagebrush Progress

The staff, board of trustees, and patrons of the Miles City Public Library miss Georgia Lonax.

She filled a very worthy place in our library and did a splendid job. We are happy with the progress. One of our major tasks, which we are proud of, is putting the majority of our holdings and many of

those from the Sagebrush Federation of WLJ, under very tight scheduling and deadlines over the last year, so this was an enormous project. We figured out and ordered not only our book inventory, but also new books, and we had a great success in getting the state and local funds added to our list.

Our new library, like all others, is complete, no carpets, no furniture, no equipment and also the air conditioning, and the arrangement of all the equipment. Now the library is open and we are truly pleased. We want to thank Georgia for all she did to make these things a reality.

We are looking forward, and knowing that going on is still in Montana and that she has been elected library president and is happy. Georgia deserves a special recognition - we wish to convey our thanks. Delores Brennen Miles City Public Library. ■

Around the State

Inez Herrig of Elroy received the Distinguished Library Service Award during the 44th annual Montana Library Assn.'s convention in Butte May 2. Herrig began her career as a librarian in 1921. She was featured by the New York Times in the spring of 1957 for driving the first bookmobile purchased under the Library Services Act. "She has seen that Montanans in remote areas receive a level of service equal to town residents," said a news release from ALA. Also honored was Katherine Schaefer, librarian at the univer-

sity of Montana, who was awarded honorary life membership for her 30 years of library construction and 30 years of her, full, part-time and full-time. The award recipient was Betty Flechsig of Havre, trustee of the fund.

Here is a list of these toll-free phone numbers: Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 1-800-344-4444, Veterans Administration 1-800-344-4444, Montana State University, 1-800-344-4444.

Williamson, former editor of the "Montana Journal," has accepted an assistantship at Montana State University. He also received a letter of commendation from the Montana State University. He will be working on a graduate degree at the school of Library and Information Science.

Montana State Library wants lists of periodicals being collected by libraries. Also a collection of fiction and non-fiction books needed from Warm Springs State Hospital Library is available until August 1, 1961. For information on any of the above, contact Harold Chambers, Technical Services, 444-3115.

The Montana Historical Society library, recently received a congratulatory certificate from the U. S. Newspaper Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities for being the first state to complete all phases of a state newspaper project.

National Security, vs. Access to Information

Washington, D.C., June 2, 1987 - The Special Libraries Association (SLA), by testifying on "Sensitive but Not Classified Information," posed the delicate question, "how do we balance legitimate national security needs of our country with the legitimate concerns of information professionals?" at hearings sponsored by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) at the end of May.

From the Association's statement, presented by Sandy Morton, Director of Government Relations and Fund Development, "we have been troubled by the government's growing tendency to restrict access to information and to the extent of national security, while on the other hand, that some government efforts to withhold information from the public are justified."

Copies of SLA's statement are available by contacting Sandy Morton, Director of Government Relations and Fund Development, SLA, 1700 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 or by calling (202) 234-4700. ■

Bozeman Public Library Withdraws as Headquarters Library

The board of Trustees of Bozeman Public Library voted at its April 6, 1987 meeting to withdraw as the headquarters library for Broad Valleys Federation effective June 30, 1987. At its meeting on May 2, 1987 the State Library Commission approved a motion calling for a meeting of the member libraries of Broad Valleys, facilitated by State Library personnel, to develop a plan, per the federation contract, for dispersal of federation owned property at the headquarters library. The plan was submitted to the State Library Commission. The commission's action also called for

polling member libraries to ascertain if they were interested in being headquarters library for Broad Valleys Federation.

Meeting on May 30, 1987 with Sheila Cates, Coordinator of Library Development, some of the member libraries reviewed proposals for handling the dispersal to the Broad Valleys Executive Committee. The plan was accepted by the commission at its June 17, 1987 meeting. Lewis & Clark Public Library in Helena has been designated as the new headquarters library for Broad Valleys Federation. ■

New Commissioner Appointed

The Governor has appointed Marie Thompson of billings to the State Library Commission and re-appointed Henry Niculerman. Marie Thompson is currently the speech and debate coach at Skyview High School in Billings. She serves on the board of South Central Federation and the Yellowstone County Library Board. ■

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